production of bio-diesel out of the seeds of Pongomia, Jatropha and Karanjia conducted in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal;

(b) whether Government are also aware that thousands of trees have been planted along the railway lines in Kharagpur in West Bengal and Railway authorities expect to run trains by bio-diesel in next two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government intend to plant these trees to facilitate production of the bio-diesel in other States of the country including Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) National Oilseeds and Vegetables Oils Development Board, Ministry of Agriculture have informed the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas that they are aware of experimental production of bio-diesel from oil seeds in the States of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Railways have informed the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas that Railway is planting Jatropha curcus trees on their own land, including that at Kharagpur. Preliminary studies, including field trials, have been done for running diesel locomotives on bio-diesel. As and when bio-diesel becomes freely available commercially, detailed planning can be undertaken to exploit this fuel as a regular option.

(d) Studies have been undertaken to explore the possibility of production of bio-diesel from non-edible oils like Jatropha curcus and Pongomia. The Ministry of Rural Development have been made the nodal Ministry to implement the National Mission on Bio-diesel. That Ministry has informed the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas that a detailed project report has been recently prepared by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) for the purpose.

ONGC's investments in Karnataka

2013. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC had mooted proposals for massive investments in Karnataka, both in oil processing and power generation sectors;

(b) if so, the size and location of the proposed facilities; and

(c) whether Government would consider processing a part of the Bombay High crude at MRPL with the expanded capacity at MRPL a Mangalore to handle imported crude from Sudan?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has not mooted any proposal for investing in oil processing and power generation sectors in Karnataka State.

In addition to concentrating on its areas of core competence, ONGC is exploring various options for diversification of its activities by forward and backward integration including power generation. In this context ONGC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Karnataka for setting up a Special Economic Zone at Mangalore, to facilitate development of the required infrastructure for ONGC's value addition projects, which are at a conceptual stage.

(c) Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) is already processing Mumbai High and Sudan crude oil, with increased capacity utilization at MRPL.

Indo-Pak co-operation in Hydrocarbon Sector

2014. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have discussed in the month of September, 2004 the possible areas of cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector;

(b) whether any discussion between the Petroleum Ministers of Pakistan and India took place recently;

(c) if so, the details of the discussion and the outcome of the discussion;

(d) whether any proposal has been put forward by India in connection with exporting diesel from India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas has discussed cooperation in the hydrocarbons sector with the Pakistan